

WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE?

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU HERE FOR?

## TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- **WELCOME NEW PEOPLE.** Take time to introduce new people.

## I'm Called To Be Sent To Bring Others Into God's Family

### ICEBREAKER

What's the greatest trip you've ever been on?

### INTRODUCTION

Wouldn't it be great to travel the world? Now, how much better would it be to take someone with you? As believers, we are on a journey that is better than any trip you could ever take. The fifth calling on our lives is this: ***We are sent to bring others into God's family.*** We are on our way to heaven, and we get to bring people with us! He has made peace with us, and we can share that peace with others. In this lesson, we will look at the three dimensions of peace we are called to share with others.

## READ I

Bringing others into God's family could be called a "peace plan." In *John 20:21 (NIV)*, Jesus said, "*Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.*" Romans 5:1 tells us that Jesus made peace between us and the Father on the cross. We need to share that great news with others!

How could we best describe it? The PEACE Plan is ordinary people - empowered by God - making a difference together - wherever they are! That means that we take what God has given us and we spread it around. Where? Anywhere! How? Any way you can! Why? Because God has given you the power and authority to do it!

**The first and best way to accomplish God's PEACE Plan is to tell others about Jesus. But what are some other, practical ways to do it?** (Example, feeding the hungry, visiting people in prison, sharing with friends and coworkers how Jesus has changed you and what He's done in your life, invite someone to church, share a sermon link with a friend, etc....)

## READ I

There are three dimensions to the PEACE Plan: ***Personal peace, local peace, and global peace***. The first is the one that you can accomplish any day of the week! It doesn't take much effort on your part, really. All it means is that you reach out to those you are already in contact with.

A personal peace plan is my personal mission to the people in my life – my family, my friends, my neighbors, and my coworkers. That's my personal peace plan. How can I be a blessing to them in their lives? How can I help them come to know God in a personal way?

You may have been brought to Jesus because of someone else's personal peace plan. And you don't even know it! You got invited to church by a coworker or you were led to Jesus by a family member.

**Who is in your personal peace plan? Name a person you can reach out to this week that you are trying to lead to Jesus so you can see how they're doing and offer to pray for them.**

## **READ |**

Your local peace happens when you get together with other believers – just like you are right now! It usually happens in our small groups, but it also happens at church, or having a meal with others, or even on a Zoom call.

One way that you can be involved in a local peace plan is by serving the needs around you that can only be met by a group. There are all kinds of needs you can tackle any day of the week by making someone a meal or helping them move. But the larger tasks – like feeding the homeless, visiting the sick, or helping teach English to new immigrants – can best be done when we partner and serve together.

Last week we talked about how the church is a body. 1 Corinthians 12:14 says that every body is made up of different parts. And when those parts get together and move as one, they can help each other out. That's how the local peace plan gets accomplished.

**What is a need you've always wanted your small group to meet but haven't been able to yet? What would it take to see that happen?** (Ex. Clean up an elderly persons yard, bring meals and supplies to someone in need, volunteer together as a small group at church once a month to greet people or help in another ministry)

## READ I

Global peace is our church's mission to the whole world. This is why New Hope Windward supports 22 ministries locally and globally around the world. For example, through our collective generosity, we rescue children out of sex trafficking, we help addicts become clean and sober, we help domestically abused women and children, we help missionaries, churches and have 500 kids in 3 Christians schools we started, and more.

Ephesians 4 tells us that God has given the church certain people like pastors, teachers, prophets, and evangelists. You might think they are given the task of accomplishing this global peace plan while we sit on the sidelines and cheer them on. Well, that's not what they're job is actually. Take a look:

*Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.*  
*Ephesians 4:12 (NLT)*

They equip us and we do the work. They empower us and we build up the church. They give us what we need to strengthen the body of Christ. They lead and we follow, locally and globally around the globe to bring God's peace wherever we can.

**Tell us about a time when you got involved with one of New Hope's ministries locally or globally around the world.** (Ex. Went on a missions trip, I give monthly to support the 22 ministries—sex trafficking, drug & alcohol rehab, homeless shelters) **What was it like? How fulfilling is your generosity knowing it's changing so many lives and saving thousands for Christ?**

## READ |

In week four of our study, we learned that **you need to gather a team to run with you!** Small Group is that team. Being a part of a small group allows you to have a safe place to grow in your relationship with Jesus alongside with others. And as you begin to know and grow with these people, you'll begin to trust them. You can begin to have more openness with them because you've spent some time getting to know one another's struggles, strengths, and weaknesses and opportunities to pray for one another.

**Take some time now to discuss with everyone in your small group if all of you will be continuing to meet. Or, discuss with your group if you plan to have a fun get together as you complete this small group study.**

Note: No pressure at all to attend.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

We are called to bring peace to those who have not yet met Jesus. And we can do it in three different dimensions:

- Personal
- Local
- Global

This week, dedicate some time to praying for all three dimensions of your peace plan.

## ADDITIONAL ACTION STEPS (Optional):

- Share with your group a ministry that you are praying about serving in.
- Attend the **Volunteer Orientation on Wednesday, September 21.**

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father God, thank You for making peace with us and bringing us into Your family. Without Your Son, we would still be lost. And we know there are others who are still lost. Give us a heart that beats with the same compassion as Yours to bring others into Your family. Give us the courage to take the steps we need. And give us the wisdom to be effective in all we do. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.



## Find Time to READ God's WORD

Reading God's Word daily re-patterns the way you think & transforms your mind. Doing your daily devotions is an excellent way to record, process, & share what God is teaching you on a personal level. We do this using S.O.A.P.

- S - Scripture**
- O - Observation**
- A - Application**
- P - Prayer**

### Here's an example:

**S:** *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "*

*--Matthew 4:4 (NIV)*

**O:** Jesus said that we can't live on food alone. Our life is sustained through His Word.

**A:** Just as food is important to me, God's Word is even more because it will sustain me and give me the strength to live out my life.

**P:** Jesus, thank You for reminding me that I need Your Word to give me the wisdom & strength to follow You. Help me to make time to spend with You daily. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

## SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

### **Day 1:**

***May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace!***

***--Psalm 29:11 (ESV)***

### **Day 2:**

***Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.***

***--Colossians 3:15 (NIV)***

### **Day 3:**

***"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free."***

***--Luke 4:18 (NLT)***

### **Day 4:**

***For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through Him God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.***

***--Colossians 1:19-20 (NLT)***

### **Day 5:**

***When peacemakers plant seeds of peace, they will harvest justice.***

***--James 3:18 (CEV)***